

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
2010 REFUGEE FACT SHEET**

1. **GLOBAL:** According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), approximately 43.7 million persons were forcibly displaced in calendar year 2010, including 15.4 million refugees, 27.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and over 837,500 asylum seekers. The country of origin for the majority of refugees was Afghanistan (3,054,700), followed by Iraq (1,683,600) and Somalia (770,200). In 2010, 98,800 refugees were admitted for resettlement by 22 countries worldwide. The United States had the highest number of admissions (71,400), followed by Canada (12,100), Australia (8,500), Sweden (1,800), and Norway (1,100). The top five countries in which asylum claims were registered in 2010 were South Africa (180,600), the United States (54,300), France (48,100), Germany (41,300) and Sweden (31,800).¹
2. **NATIONAL:** Each year the President of the United States proposes a cap on the number of refugees that can enter the country in the upcoming federal fiscal year (FFY). This cap, known as the refugee admissions ceiling, was set at 80,000 for FFY 2010 (October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010) with allocations of 38,000 for the Near East and South Asia, 18,000 for East Asia, 15,500 for Africa, 5,500 for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2,500 for Europe and Central Asia, and an additional 500 of unallocated reserve.² According to data collected by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System (WRAPS), a total of 73,293 refugee admissions were made in FFY 2010, an increase of 36% from 2005 (53,738 admissions). The countries of origin have changed over time. In 2005, the majority of refugees were from Somalia (10,405), Laos (8,517), Cuba (6,360), Russia (5,982) and Liberia (4,289). In 2010, the majority of refugees originated from Iraq (18,016), Burma (16,693), Bhutan (12,363), Somalia (4,884) and Cuba (4,818).³ California resettles the majority of refugees: 8,577 (12%) in FFY 2010 followed by Texas (7,918; 11%), New York (4,559; 6%), Florida (4,216; 6%) and Arizona (3,400; 5%).²
3. **CALIFORNIA:** During FFY 2006 – 2010, a total of 41,220 refugees resettled in California, the majority of which originated from Iran (16,477) and Iraq (12,334).⁴ According to data from the California Department of Social Services – Refugee Programs Bureau, California resettled 8,563 refugees during FFY 2010.⁵
4. **SAN DIEGO:** San Diego County ranked first among refugee admissions to California in FFY 2010 (3,663) followed by Los Angeles County (2,339) and Sacramento County (667).⁵ The number of refugee admissions to San Diego County increased by 374% (or almost 4-fold) since 2005.⁶
5. **COMMUNITIES:** The top cities/communities in which refugees resettled during CY 2010 were El Cajon (1,870) and San Diego (1,175) followed by Spring Valley (140) and La Mesa (63).⁶
6. **AGE:** The breakdown of refugee arrivals in CY 2010 by age group was as follows: 314 (9%) were between 0 and 4 years of age, 867 (25%) were age 5-17 years, 1,590 (46%) were age 18-44 years, 543 (16%) were age 45-64 years, and 142 (4%) were age 65 and over.⁶
7. **BIRTH COUNTRY:** During CY 2010, the predominant country of origin (birth) of refugees resettling in San Diego County was Iraq (2,716; 79%), followed by Burma (291; 8%), Somalia (139; 4%), Panama (57; 2%), Iran (38; 1%) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (38; 1%).⁶

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1 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, "UNHCR Global Trends 2010," <http://www.unhcr.org/4dfa11499.html>, (Accessed August 30, 2011).

2 US Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, "Annual Flow Report, May 2011 – Refugees and Asylees: 2010," http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/ois_rfa_fr_2010.pdf, (Accessed August 30, 2011).

3 U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System (WRAPS), Fiscal Years 2001 to 2010, "Refugee Arrivals by Region and Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2001 to 2010," <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/yearbook/2010/table14d.xls>, (Accessed August 30, 2011).

4 California Department of Social Services, Refugee Programs Bureau, "Refugee Arrivals into California by Country/Region of Origin – Federal Fiscal Years 2006 through 2010," <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/refugeeprogram/res/pdf/RptCtr/ArrivalsData/06-10FiveYrArrivalsByCountyAndRegion.pdf>, (Accessed August 30, 2011).

5 California Department of Social Services, Refugee Programs Bureau, "Refugee Arrivals into California Counties – Federal Fiscal Year 2010," http://www.cdss.ca.gov/refugeeprogram/res/pdf/RptCtr/ArrivalsData/FFY-2010_Arrivals.pdf, (Accessed August 30, 2011).

6 California Department of Social Services, Refugee Programs Bureau – Calendar Year 2010